



**Statement of Intent.** The Council intends to screen its policies, in accordance with Paragraphs 5 and 6 of the Equality Scheme, to determine which would require a fuller equality analysis in the form of an impact assessment

## Part 1: Policy Scoping

The first stage of the screening process involves scoping the policy or policy area. The purpose of policy scoping is to help prepare the background and context and set out the aims and objectives for the policy being screened. At this stage, scoping the policy will help identify potential constraints as well as opportunities and will help the policy maker work through the screening process on a step by step basis.

You should remember that the Section 75 statutory duties apply to internal policies (relating to people who work for the authority), as well as external policies (relating to those who are, or could be, served by the authority).

### Information about the policy

**Name of the policy or policy area:**

Corporate Funding Policy 2015

**Is this an existing, revised or a new policy/policy area?**

| Existing | Revised | New |
|----------|---------|-----|
| X        |         |     |

### Brief Description

Fermanagh and Omagh District Council is committed to the principle of making funding provision available to individuals and non profit taking organisations.

One of the strategic objectives outlined within the Council's Corporate Plan is the development and implementation of a corporate funding policy that will deliver an annual programme of grant aid across a range of Council functions and services with appropriate monitoring and evaluation systems in place.

Subject to available resources, the Council will endeavour to provide funding to support complementary activity across a number of service areas including Arts and Culture, Community Support, Good Relations, Sports Development and Recreation and Tourism.

The Council reserves the right to introduce or promote other funding streams which may be required to meet exceptional or unexpected circumstances.

### **What is it trying to achieve? (intended aims and outcomes)**

#### **The aims of the policy are:**

##### Aim of the Funding Policy

- The overall aim of the Council's funding policy is to provide a clear and consistent application driven process which has relevant assessment and evaluation procedures with appropriate appeal and monitoring systems in place.
- This policy document is designed to provide information in relation to the availability and provision of financial support for activities that clearly further the Corporate themes and Strategic Actions identified within the Council's Corporate Plan.

##### Objectives of Funding Policy

The objectives of this policy are to ensure that all funding and grants allocated will:

- Further the objectives as outlined within the Council's Corporate Plan and ultimately its Community Plan
- Target resources to meet identified needs
- Maximise leverage (for example in kind contributions or match funding)
- Maximise sustainability (financial, environmental and social)
- Achieve greater accountability and openness
- Ensure equality is considered in all applications in line with section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998
- As far as possible, the Council will strive to achieve an urban/rural balance in the allocation of funding support.

**Are there any Section 75 categories which might be expected to benefit from the intended policy?**

| YES | NO | N/A |
|-----|----|-----|
| X   |    |     |

**If YES, explain how.**

It is anticipated that all Section 75 categories will benefit from the revised policy as there will be increased awareness of the range of grants that are available with information sessions to make all sections of the community aware of the new grant aid process.

**Who initiated or wrote the policy?**

The Directors of Regeneration and Planning and Corporate Services and Governance

**Who owns and who implements each element of the policy?**

The Council owns and will implement the Policy through the grants administered by the various grant regimes.

**Implementation factors**

**Are there any factors which could contribute to/detract from the intended aim/outcome of the policy/decision?**

| YES | NO | N/A |
|-----|----|-----|
| X   |    |     |

**If YES, are they**

**Financial: Yes**

The Policy will operate within available Council resources.

**Legislative: No**

**Other, please specify:**

N/A

**Main stakeholders affected**

**Who are the internal and external stakeholders (actual or potential) that the policy will impact upon?**

The Chief Executive has overall responsibility for ensuring corporate compliance with the funding policy. The Chief Executive is supported in these responsibilities by the relevant budget holding Directors for grant purposes.

The Council's Funding unit is responsible for ensuring the agreed administration, reporting and monitoring arrangements are implemented.

Council employees are required to adhere to this policy and to take appropriate action to ensure the policy aims and objectives, together with all Conflict of Interest procedures, are fulfilled.

**Service users:**

The responsibilities of Grant Aid recipients are detailed within the Letter of Offer.

**Other public sector organisations:**

Central Departments in relation to grant funding which they make available.

**Voluntary/community/trade unions:**

The responsibilities of Grant Aid recipients are detailed within the Letter of Offer.

**Other, please specify:**

N/A

**Other policies with a bearing on this policy**

**What are they and who owns them?**

This Policy provides a framework to guide the Council's practice in relation to funding support.

The policy will operate in conjunction with the relevant Grant Aid Code of Practice and general guidance documents.

**Available evidence**

Evidence to help inform the screening process may take many forms. Public authorities should ensure that their screening decision is informed by relevant data.

What evidence/information (both qualitative and quantitative) have you gathered to inform this policy? Specify details for relevant Section 75 categories.

| <b>Section 75 Category</b>   | <b>Details of Evidence/Information</b>   |
|--|--|
| Religious Belief<br>Political Opinion<br>Race<br>Disability<br>Age | <p>Consultation with groups was undertaken as part of the policy development process, and the draft policy reflects the outcome of that consultation process.</p> <p>Information was also used from a review of the policies operated by the two predecessor councils.</p> |

**Needs, experiences and priorities**

Taking into account the information referred to above, what are the different needs, experiences and priorities of each of the following categories, in relation to the particular policy/decision? Specify details for each of the Section 75 categories

| <b>Section 75 Category</b> | <b>Details of Needs/Experiences/Priorities</b>  |
|----------------------------|---|
| Religious Belief           | Evaluation on the uptake of funding indicated there were no issues pertinent. Fermanagh and Omagh District Council will not fund religious activity. Single identity groups can receive funding providing they adhere to the overarching principles of funding.       |
| Political Opinion          | Fermanagh and Omagh District Council will not fund political activities. Evaluation on the uptake of funding indicated there were no issues pertinent.  |
| Race                       | There is nothing contained within any of the funding requirements that would prevent either an individual or organisation on race grounds.  |
| Disability                 | Funding is available for 'disability' organisations and individuals or groups wishing to involve people with disabilities   |
| Age                        | The Council funding policy allows funding to be received by a number of organisations with different age groupings. No differential or adverse impact has been identified.  |
| Marital Status             | No issues have been identified for people of differing marital status. The Council believes that the individuals who make up the groups that do receive funding are representative of people who are married, single, divorced, widowed or separated                  |
| Sexual Orientation         | There is nothing contained in the funding criteria to prevent any group representing the interests of the LGBT community from applying for funding.   |
| Gender                     | In common with most parts of Northern Ireland many Women's Group exist and are able to avail of funding. More recently some Men's groups are beginning to emerge. The Council feels there is no issue between men and women in terms of being able to access funding. |
| Dependents                 | The Council does not believe that there are any barriers to organisations or individuals applying for funding solely on the basis of dependency status.   |

**Part 2: Screening Questions**

## Introduction

1. If the conclusion is **none** in respect of all of the Section 75 categories, then you may decide to screen the policy out. If a policy is 'screened out', you should give details of the reasons for the decision taken.
2. If the conclusion is **major** in respect of one or more of the Section 75 categories, then consideration should be given to subjecting the policy to an EQIA.
3. If the conclusion is **minor** in respect of one or more of the Section 75 categories, then consideration should still be given to proceeding with an EQIA, or to measures to mitigate the adverse impact; or an alternative policy.

### In favour of a 'major' impact

- a) The policy is significant in terms of its strategic importance;
- b) Potential equality impacts are unknown, because, for example, there is insufficient data upon which to make an assessment or because they are complex, and hence it would be appropriate to conduct an EQIA;
- c) Potential equality and/or good relations impacts are likely to be adverse or are likely to be experienced disproportionately by groups of people including those who are marginalised or disadvantaged;
- d) Further assessment offers a valuable way to examine the evidence and develop recommendations in respect of a policy about which there are concerns among affected individuals and representative groups, for example in respect of multiple identities;
- e) The policy is likely to be challenged by way of judicial review;
- f) The policy is significant in terms of expenditure.

### In favour of 'minor' impact

- a) The policy is not unlawfully discriminatory and any residual potential impacts on people are judged to be negligible;
- b) The policy, or certain proposals within it, are potentially unlawfully discriminatory, but this possibility can readily and easily be eliminated by making appropriate changes to the policy or by adopting appropriate mitigating measures;
- c) Any asymmetrical equality impacts caused by the policy are intentional because they are specifically designed to promote equality of opportunity for particular groups of disadvantaged people;
- d) By amending the policy there are better opportunities to better promote equality of opportunity and/or good relations.

### In favour of none

- a) The policy has no relevance to equality of opportunity or good relations.
- b) The policy is purely technical in nature and will have no bearing in terms of its likely impact on equality of opportunity or good relations for people within the equality and good relations categories.

Taking into account the earlier evidence, consider and comment on the likely impact on equality of opportunity / good relations for those affected by this policy, by applying the following screening questions and the impact on the group i.e. minor, major or none.

**Screening questions**

| <b>1 What is the likely impact on equality of opportunity for those affected by this policy, for each of the Section 75 grounds? Minor/Major/None</b> |                                 |  |
|---|---------------------------------|--|
| <b>Section 75 Category</b>  | <b>Details of Policy Impact</b> | <b>Level of Impact? Minor/Major/None</b> |
| <b>Religious belief</b>   | No Impact                       | None                                     |
| <b>Political opinion</b>  | No Impact                       | None                                     |
| <b>Racial / ethnic group</b>  | No Impact                       | None                                     |
| <b>Age</b>  | No Impact                       | None                                     |
| <b>Marital status</b>   | No Impact                       | None                                     |
| <b>Sexual orientation</b>   | No Impact                       | None                                     |
| <b>Men and women generally</b>  | No Impact                       | None                                     |
| <b>Disability</b>   | No Impact                       | None                                     |
| <b>Dependants</b>   | No Impact                       | None                                     |

| <b>2 Are there opportunities to better promote equality of opportunity for people within any of the Section 75 categories?</b> |  |                               |
|--|--|-------------------------------|
| <b>Section 75 Category</b>   | <b>If Yes, provide details</b>   | <b>If No, provide reasons</b> |
| Religious Belief<br>Political Opinion<br>Race<br>Disability<br>Age   | The policy will provide a more accessible funding application process and thereby increase the number of applications for funding. |                               |

| <b>3 To what extent is the policy likely to impact on good relations between people of different religious belief, political opinion or racial group? Minor/Major/None</b> |   |   |
|--|---|---|
| <b>Good Relations Category</b>   | <b>Details of policy impact</b>   | <b>Level of impact<br/>Minor/Major/None</b> |
| <b>Religious belief</b>  | The new policy will have a positive impact in that funding will be easier to access by people of different religious belief.  | Minor positive impact                       |
| <b>Political opinion</b>   | The new policy will have a positive impact in that funding will be easier to access by people of different political opinion. | Minor positive impact                       |
| <b>Racial group</b>  | The new policy will have a positive impact in that funding will be easier to access by people of different racial group.      | Minor positive impact                       |

| <b>4 Are there opportunities to better promote good relations between people of different religious belief, political opinion or racial group?</b> |   |                               |
|--|---|-------------------------------|
| <b>Good relations category</b>   | <b>If Yes, provide details</b>  | <b>If No, provide reasons</b> |
| Religious Belief<br><br>Political Opinion<br><br>Race  | Through its implementation, the Policy will enhance good relations across the District. |                               |

## Additional considerations

### Multiple identity

Generally speaking, people can fall into more than one Section 75 category. Taking this into consideration, are there any potential impacts of the policy/decision on people with multiple identities? (For example; disabled minority ethnic people; disabled women; young Protestant men; and young lesbians, gay and bisexual people).

|     |
|-----|
| N/A |
|-----|

Provide details of data on the impact of the policy on people with multiple identities. Specify relevant Section 75 categories concerned.

|     |
|-----|
| N/A |
|-----|

**5. Is there an opportunity to better promote positive attitudes towards people with disabilities by altering the policy or working with others in government or the wider community? Yes /No.**

|  |
|--|
|  |
|--|

**6. Is there an opportunity to encourage people with disabilities to participate in public life by altering the policy or working with others in government or the wider community? Yes /No.**

|  |
|--|
|  |
|--|

## Part 3: Screening Decision

In light of your answers to the previous questions, do you feel that the policy should: (please indicate one):

- 1. Not be subject to an EQIA (with no mitigating measures required)**
- 2. Not be subject to an EQIA (with mitigating measures /alternative policies)**
- 3. Not be subject to an EQIA at this time**
- 4. Be subject to an EQIA**

**Option 1:**

**The policy should not be subject to an EQIA (with no mitigating measures required).**

**If 1. or 2. (i.e. not be subject to an EQIA), please provide details of the reasons why:**

The New Corporate Funding Policy ensures that the application process is more user-friendly and will mean that funding is more accessible by an increased number of people / groups and will have a positive impact on equality.

**If 2. (i.e. not be subject to an EQIA), in what ways can identified adverse impacts attaching to the policy be mitigated or an alternative policy be introduced?**

**In light of these revisions, is there a need to re-screen the revised/alternative policy at a future date? YES / NO**

**If 3. or 4. (i.e. to conduct an EQIA), please provide details of the reasons:**

**Timetabling and Prioritising EQIA**

**If 3. or 4., is the policy affected by timetables established by other relevant public authorities? YES / NO**

**If YES, please provide details:**

**Please answer the following questions to determine priority for timetabling the EQIA. On a scale of 1-3, with 1 being the lowest priority and 3 being the highest, assess the policy in terms of its priority for EQIA.**

| Priority criterion                                   | Rating (1-3) |
|--|--------------|
| Effect on equality of opportunity and good relations |              |
| Social need  |              |
| Effect on people’s daily lives                       |              |

|   |  |
|---|--|
| Relevance to a public authority's functions |  |
|---|--|

Note: The Total Rating Score should be used to prioritise the policy in rank order with other policies screened in for EQIA. This list of priorities will assist you in timetabling the EQIA. Details of your EQIA timetable should be included in the quarterly Section 75 report.

Proposed date for commencing EQIA: \_\_\_\_\_

### **Any further comments on the screening process and any subsequent actions?**

The Policy will, under normal circumstances, be formally reviewed every three years and will also be subject to routine scrutiny and, from time to time, updates and re-issues will be circulated.

The policy will be reviewed sooner in the event of any one or more of the following:

- A failure or weakness in the policy is highlighted.
- Changes in legislative requirements.
- Changes in Government/Council or other directives and requirements.

## **Part 4: Monitoring**

**Effective monitoring will help identify any future adverse impacts arising from the policy which may lead you to conduct an EQIA, as well as help with future planning and policy development. You should consider the guidance contained in the Commission's Monitoring Guidance for Use by Public Authorities (July 2007). The Commission recommends that where the policy has been amended or an alternative policy introduced, then you should monitor more broadly than for adverse impact (See Benefits, P.9-10, paras 2.13 – 2.20 of the Monitoring Guidance).**

### **Please detail proposed monitoring arrangements below:**

The Policy will, under normal circumstances, be formally reviewed every three years and will also be subject to routine scrutiny.

Where there is an indication of adverse impact then the policy will be reviewed more frequently and necessary adjustments will be made.

Monitoring arrangements will be put in place for all events, training etc. linked directly to the Policy, and action taken where indicates potential adverse effects.

## Part 5: Approval and Authorisation

| <b>Screened by:</b> | <b>Position/Job Title</b>                     | <b>Date</b> |
|---------------------|---|-------------|
|                     | Director of Regeneration and Planning         |             |
|                     | Director of Corporate Services and Governance |             |
| <b>Approved by:</b> |   |             |
|                     | Chief Executive                               |             |